

Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 OPR-01 A-01 SCCT-01 ACDA-05

IO-10 DPW-01 OIC-02 SAM-01 USSS-00 SY-04 CU-02 /077 W

----- 049564

O R 060625Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3795

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

JCS WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 1001

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PE

SUBJECT: COMMENTARY ON LIMA DISORDERS

1. WITH 10 PM CURFEW DOWNTOWN LIMA BECOMING CALMER
ALTHOUGH THERE IS CONTINUED, INTERMITTENTLY HEAVY SMALL ARMS
AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. MILITARY, WHILE INITIALLY SLOW IN
REACTING TO TODAY'S MASSIVE DISORDERS, USED ITS ARMORED VEHICLES
AND MILITARY POLICE IN EFFORT TO RESTORE ORDER. EMBASSY LACKS
HARD INFORMATION ON CASUALTIES BUT WE HAVE SEEN MANY AMBULANCES
AND HAVE EYE-WITNESS REPORTS OF DEAD IN STREETS. WE HAVE NO CON-
FIRMATION OF RUMORS THAT PIP AND GUARDIA REPUBLICANA HAVE JOINED
GUARDIA CIVIL IN ITS CONFRONTATION WITH THE MILITARY. IT IS
CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT MILITARY ACTED VIRTUALLY ALONE TO CONFRONT
PUBLIC DISORDERS. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RESTORATION OF ORDER
RESTS WITH REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDERS WITH NO EVIDENCE YET OF
INTER-SERVICE TENSION. ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE ARE GUARDING
RESPECTIVE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS AND ARMY AND AIR FORCE, AT
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LEAST, COOPERATING IN MAINTENANCE ORDER IN DOWNTOWN AREA.

2. REASONS FOR CIVILIAN DISORDERS WHICH HAVE PRECIPITATED GOP CRISIS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. MOB WHICH FORMED MORNING OF FEBRUARY 5 BEGAN AS COMBINATION OF STUDENTS AND YOUTHS IN SYMPATHY WITH GUARDIA CIVIL AND IN OPPOSITION TO VELASCO GOVERNMENT. MOB ATTACKS AGAINST SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AGENCY (SINAMOS) HEAD-QUARTERS AND NEWSPAPERS CORREO AND EXPRESO DEMONSTRATE THIS MOTIVATION.

3. ON OTHER HAND, SOME ORGANIZED ELEMENTS WERE CLEARLY ANTI-U.S. AS EVIDENCED BY STONING OF CHANCERY. AS MOB COLLECTED AND IT CLEAR THAT IN ABSENCE GUARDIA CIVIL PUBLIC ORDER TEMPORARILY NON-EXISTENT, LAWLESS ELEMENTS JOINED IN DEMONSTRATIONS AND TURNED THEM INTO MASSIVE LOOTING OPERATIONS. SHOPS, SUPERMARKETS AND SOME OFFICES IN DOWNTOWN AREA CLEANED OUT BY RIOTERS.

4. AT THIS POINT IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF PARTICIPATION BY POLITICAL OPPOSITION, WHETHER FROM LEFT OR FROM APRA AND AP ELEMENTS, IN SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. GOP CONTINUES TO FIX BLAME SQUARELY ON COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES WORKING THROUGH GUARDIA CIVIL ON PRETEXT OF SEEKING HIGHER WAGES AND BENEFITS.

5. DEEP ANXIETY HOLDS LIMA POPULACE IN ITS GRIP. ALTHOUGH GOP HAS PROMULGATED ONE OF WORLD'S MOST UNENFORCEABLE DECREES -- A BAN AGAINST SPREADING RUMORS -- THE RUMOR MILL IS WORKING TO FULL CAPACITY. SUBURBAN LIMA SUPERMARKETS AND GAS STATIONS BE-SIEGED TODAY AS PEOPLE ATTEMPTED STOCK UP IN FACE OF POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY.

6. COMMENT: THE EVENTS OF THE LAST TWO DAYS REPRESENT A SEVERE STRAIN ON SO FAR MONOLITHIC UNITY OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE VELASCO GOVERNMENT. THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME IS STILL UNCLEAR BUT BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO NOW ARMED SERVICES REMAIN UNITED BEHIND VELASCO. ARMY IS CRITICAL HERE, AND TOP GOVERNMENT DECISIONS MUST HAVE CONCURRENCE OF REGIONAL AND OTHER SENIOR COMMANDERS. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE YET THAT THESE COMMANDERS HAVE WITHDRAWN THEIR SUPPORT FROM VELASCO.
DEAN

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